

April 22, 2020

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 22, 2020 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Patrick McFadden, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Letcher was present, Eureka via VisionNet.

Commissioner Peck opened the meeting with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

10:15 AM **District Board Appointments:** Present via phone conference were Derrick Perkins, Ray Stout and Nikki Meyer.

Board Vacancy Public Notice was advertised in the Tobacco Valley News and The Western News on March 23 and 30, 2020. The public notice was also posted on the county website, Libby Courthouse bulletin boards and the Eureka Annex bulletin board. Robin said applications received were for reappointments only.

Board reappointments were as follows:

Eureka Fire Service Area: Dave Lyons

Upper Yaak Fire Service Area: John Huber and Clinton Oster, Jr.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to reappoint board members as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Robin commented that no applications were received for Troy Park Board. There are no vacancies until 2021 on the Trego/Fortine/Stryker Fire Service Area.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present via phone conference were Derrick Perkins, Ray Stout, and Nikki Meyer.

- Robin presented the minutes for April 15, 2020 for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Patrick submitted a contract with GeoControl LLC to provide GIS services, travel and printing of maps, production of workflow documents and other services related to geographic information solutions. Commissioner Peck commented those services are instrumental for the community fire protection plan and is a standard contract for GIS service to map the urban interface. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve contract with GeoControl LLC as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Derrick Perkins, Ray Stout, and Nikki Meyer.

There were no public comments.

11:00 AM **Leavett / EBMS Update:** Present was HR Director Dallas Bowe. Also present via phone conference were Pete Shatwell, Sarah Harne, Derrick Perkins, Ray Stout and Nikki Meyer.

Pete said Leavett went out to market and looked into insurance plan options from different companies. Pete supplied a rate analysis of benefit plans and explained those options and costs. Sarah and Pete explained the different benefits offered per plan. Plan options included Standard Cost Analysis, Life Insurance Analysis, Voluntary Dental Insurance Analysis, Voluntary Vision Insurance Analysis, Health Insurance Analysis, and Medical Plan Comparison. The Health Insurance Analysis showed costs for single employee, employee/spouse, employee/children, and family rates.

Commissioner Peck asked for clarification regarding a deductible and the individual out-of-pocket payments. Pete explained that once deductibles are reached, the plan moves to a 70% / 30% split, which is where the individual out-of-pocket is utilized.

Pete supplied graphs showing percentage of businesses that pay employee health insurance premiums, annual and monthly worker contributions for covered workers from 1999-2016 for review.

The JPT Group Health Benefit Plan Renewal for Lincoln County effective July 1, 2020 was submitted for review.

11:30 AM **Noxious Weed / Vehicle and Well Discussion:** Present were Weed Director Mike Bradeen and County Forester Jennifer Nelson. Present via phone conference were Derrick Perkins, Ray Stout and Nikki Meyer.

- Mike informed the commissioners that the 2010 Ford Vehicle needs to be replaced and shared quotes both from Libby Auto and Timberline. Mike said this cost will come out of budget and will be paid mostly from grants and he is not requesting a budget increase.
- Mike talked about the progress of the well being installed at the County Weed Shop. Cost is approximately \$15,000 to include the pump. Mike discussed the cost of moving his office space from the county annex building to the shop, opening up workspace in the county annex building. Mike asked if the commissioners could help pay for the well and his budget would pay for the cost of building the office space at the weed shop. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve drilling of well, pump and other well related costs to be paid out of PILT, approximately \$15,000. Costs for moving the office space to be paid out weed grant funds. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:45 AM **Forestry Update / J. Neils Park Beetles / Grant Approval / 2017 Grant Extension:** Present was County Forester Jennifer Nelson. Also present via phone conference were Derrick Perkins, Ray Stout and Nikki Meyer.

- Jennifer said that Kootenai Forest to Rivers Initiative landowner visits have stalled due to Covid, but everybody is still on board. Jennifer commented that she is wanting to work with a fire specialist in Eureka to review and prioritize applications received from Eureka, Fortine and Trego and then will notify homeowners.
- Jennifer thanked the commissioners for approving the GeoControl Contract, mentioning GeoControl helped with putting together the burn permit brochure.

- Jennifer received the paperwork from the state for the DNRC Grant for updating the FireSafe.org website. The grant is for \$7,500 to upgrade the website and make it more interactive and will allow to imbed the burn districts. Requested permission to submit the grant award back to the state. The commissioner agreed to allow Jennifer to move forward with the DNRC grant.
- Jennifer talked about the J. Neils Park Western Pine beetle infestation. There are 95 to 100 trees infested or dying. Jennifer shared a photo showing the areas infected sites. The larva is still there and needs to have it removed before they fly in June. The trees need to have the bark removed so not to move the problem. The plan is to fall trees and chip where we can; working with DNRC on this. DNRC agreed to give a week of their time for saw training and getting the infested trees down. Chips will go back on site. Jennifer said she will need to close a portion of the park during work operations and will put out a public notice and contact landowners adjacent to the park.
- Jennifer talked about upcoming projects and mentioned that SkiDale is moving forward as a Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) project. Other projects are Ripley Bullseye Timbers Sale and Western States Hazardous fuels grant request for proposals.

12:50 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board